



Confederate Emancipation: Southern Plans to Free and Arm Slaves During the Civil War

By Bruce Levine

Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 272 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 5.9in. x 0.6in.ln early 1864, as the Confederate Army of Tennessee licked its wounds after being routed at the Battle of Chattanooga, Major-General Patrick Cleburne (the Stonewall of the West) proposed that the most courageous of our slaves be trained as soldiers and that every slave in the South who shall remain true to the Confederacy in this war be freed. In Confederate Emancipation, Bruce Levine looks closely at such Confederate plans to arm and free slaves. He shows that within a year of Cleburnes proposal, which was initially rejected out of hand, Jefferson Davis, Judah P. Benjamin, and Robert E. Lee had all reached the same conclusions. At that point, the idea was debated widely in newspapers and drawing rooms across the South, as more and more slaves fled to Union lines and fought in the ranks of the Union army. Eventually, the soldiers of Lees army voted on the proposal, and the Confederate government actually enacted a version of it in March. The Army issued the necessary orders just two weeks before Appomattox, too late to affect the course of the war. Throughout the book,...



Reviews

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